

30 incentive data to determine which of the economic incentive data correspond to the at  
31 *A<sup>2</sup> cont* least one end user and] **bids in accordance with the auction rules** to produce  
32 [derivative] **processed bid** data, and storing the [economic incentive data] **bids** and  
33 the [derivative] **processed bid** data in a data base of the moderating computer as first  
34 end-user set data;

35 b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first end-user set  
36 data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers; **and**  
37 c. in the moderating computer, [processing the first end-user set data and generating  
38 provider selection data; and]  
39 [d. in the moderating computer, selecting] **designating** at least [two] **one** Provider[s] of  
40 the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with  
41 each [of the at least two] **designated** Provider[s] to supply **at least** a portion of the  
42 energy to be used by the at least one end user at [an] **at least one** end-user facility  
43 during at least a portion of a specific future time interval.

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45 Please delete Claims 2 – 43.

46

47 Please enter Claim 1 as presented in the clean copy below and add Claims 44-154, as  
48 presented below.

49 **CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIM SET**

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51 1. A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the  
52 benefit of end users in which a moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of

53 a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and designates at least one Provider of  
54 the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to at least one end user, based on an  
55 economic choice in accordance with auction rules, wherein the method comprises:  
56 d. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide energy to the at least one end  
57 user, processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules to produce processed  
58 bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the  
59 moderating computer as first end-user set data;  
60 e. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first end-user set  
61 data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers; and  
62 f. in the moderating computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of  
63 energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated  
64 Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end  
65 user at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time  
66 interval.

1  
2 [Claims 2 through 43 have been deleted]

1  
A<sup>3</sup> 2 44. A method of Claim 1 in which the moderating computer designates at least two Providers  
3 of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with  
4 each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at  
5 least one end user at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time interval.

1 45. A method of Claim 1 in which the designated Providers, when their respective  
2 commitments are summed, are committed to supply 100% of the energy needed by the at  
3 least one end user.

1 46. A method of Claim 1 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements  
2 specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating  
3 computer to consider the bid valid.

1 47. A method of Claim 46 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a portion of  
2 the auction rules to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1 48. A method of Claim 46 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids  
2 indicate the quantity of energy each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the at  
3 least one end user.

1 49. A method of Claim 1 in which the moderating computer transmits historical energy usage  
2 data associated with the at least one end user to at least a portion of the plurality of  
3 energy Providers.

1 50. A method of Claim 1 in which at least one adjunct computer performs at least a portion  
2 of the processing and communications functions of the moderating computer.

1 51. A method of Claim 1 including, in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a  
2 portion of the first end-user set data to the at least one end user.

1 52. A method of Claim 1 comprising, in the moderating computer, receiving decision rules  
2 from an administrator associated with the moderating computer or from the at least one  
3 end user, processing at least a portion of the first end-user set data and the decision rules,  
4 and designating at least a first designated Provider for the provision of energy to the at  
5 least one end user.

1 53. A method of Claim 1 including, in the moderating computer, transmitting a designation  
2 notification to each designated Provider and transmitting to a first DISCO serving the at  
3 least one end user at least a portion of the information contained in the designation  
4 notification.

1 54. A method of Claim 1 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a portion of the  
2 first end-user set data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers subsequent  
3 to designating at least a first designated Provider to provide energy to the at least one end  
4 user.

1 55. A method of Claim 1 in which at least a first designated Provider is designated by the  
2 moderating computer to supply a specific quantity or block of energy.

1 56. A method of Claim 1 in which at least a first designated Provider is designated by the  
2 moderating computer as a default Provider or a contract Provider.

1 57. A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the  
2 benefit of end users in which a moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of  
3 a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and designates at least one Provider of  
4 the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to at least one end user, based on an  
5 economic choice in accordance with auction rules, wherein the method comprises:  
6 a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide energy to the at least one end  
7 user, processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules to produce processed  
8 bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the  
9 moderating computer as first end-user set data;  
10 b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first end-user set  
11 data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers;

12                   c. in the moderating computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of  
13                   energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated  
14                   Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end  
15                   user at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time  
16                   interval; and

17                   d. in the moderating computer, or in a first DISCO serving the at least one end user, or  
18                   in an independent meter reading service entity, transmitting periodic usage reports  
19                   associated with the at least one end user to at least a first designated Provider.

1               58. A method of Claim 57 in which the moderating computer designates at least two  
2               Providers of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end  
3               user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used  
4               by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time  
5               interval.

1               59. A method of Claim 57 in which the designated Providers, when their respective  
2               commitments are summed, are committed to supply 100% of the energy needed by the at  
3               least one end user.

1               60. A method of Claim 57 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements  
2               specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating  
3               computer to consider the bid valid .

1               61. A method of Claim 60 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a portion of  
2               the auction rules to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1 62. A method of Claim 60 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids  
2 indicate the quantity of energy each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the at  
3 least one end user.

1 63. A method of Claim 57 in which the moderating computer transmits historical energy  
2 usage data associated with the at least one end user to at least a portion of the plurality of  
3 energy Providers.

1 64. A method of Claim 57 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a portion of  
2 the first end-user set data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers  
3 subsequent to designating at least a first designated Provider to provide energy to the at  
4 least one end user.

1 65. A method of Claim 57 in which at least one adjunct computer performs at least a portion  
2 of the processing and communications functions of the moderating computer.

1 66. A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the  
2 benefit of end users in which a moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of  
3 a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and communicates with a first control  
4 computer, thereby enabling the first control computer to designate at least one Provider of  
5 the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, based on  
6 an economic choice in accordance with auction rules, wherein the method comprises:  
7 a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide energy to the at least one end user,  
8 processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules to produce processed bid  
9 data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the moderating  
10 computer as first control computer data;

11        b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first control computer  
12                data to the first control computer;  
13        c. in the moderating computer or the first control computer, transmitting at least a portion of  
14                the first control computer data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy  
15                Providers;  
16        d. in the first control computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of energy  
17                Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated  
18                Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end  
19                user at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time  
20                interval; and  
21        e. in the moderating computer, or in the first control computer, or in a first DISCO  
22                serving the at least one end user, or in an independent meter reading service entity,  
23                transmitting periodic usage reports associated with the at least one end user to at least  
24                a first designated Provider.

1        67. A method of Claim 66 including, in the moderating computer or the first control  
2                computer, notifying each designated Provider of its designation to provide energy to the  
3                at least one end user and notifying the first DISCO of the Provider's designation.  
1        68. A method of Claim 66 in which the first control computer is a computer adjunct to the  
2                moderating computer.  
1        69. A method of Claim 66 comprising, in the first control computer, receiving decision rules  
2                from an administrator associated with the first control computer or from the at least one  
3                end user, processing at least a portion of the first control computer data and the decision

4       rules, and designating at least a first designated Provider for the provision of energy to  
5       the at least one end user.

1       70.    A method of Claim 66 in which the first control computer is operated by the moderating  
2       computer, or by the at least one end user, or by a reseller to the at least one end user, or  
3       by the first DISCO.

1       71.    A method of Claim 66 in which the first control computer designates at least two  
2       Providers of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end  
3       user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used  
4       by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time  
5       interval.

1       72.    A method of Claim 66 in which the designated Providers, when their respective  
2       commitments are summed, are committed to supply 100% of the energy needed by the at  
3       least one end user.

1       73.    A method of Claim 66 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements  
2       specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating  
3       computer to consider the bid valid.

1       74.    A method of Claim 73 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a portion of  
2       the auction rules to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1       75.    A method of Claim 73 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids  
2       indicate the quantity of energy each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the at  
3       least one end user.

1 76. A method of Claim 66 in which the moderating computer or the first control computer  
2 transmits historical energy usage data associated with the at least one end user to at least  
3 a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1 77. A method of Claim 66 in which at least a first designated Provider is designated by the  
2 first control computer as a default Provider or a contract Provider.

*A<sup>3</sup> cont*

1 78. A method of Claim 66 in which the moderating computer or the first control computer  
2 transmits at least a portion of the first control computer data to at least a portion of the  
3 plurality of energy Providers subsequent to the first control computer designating at least  
4 a first designated Provider to provide energy to the at least one end user.

1 79. A method of Claim 66 in which at least a portion of the processing and communications  
2 functions of the moderating computer or the first control computer are performed by one  
3 or more adjunct computers.

1 80. A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the  
2 benefit of end users in which a moderating computer collects bids from each Provider of  
3 a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and communicates with a first control  
4 computer, thereby enabling the first control computer to designate at least two Providers  
5 of the plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, based  
6 on an economic choice in accordance with auction rules, wherein the method comprises:  
7 a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide energy to the at least one end  
8 user, processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules to produce processed  
9 bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the  
10 moderating computer as first control computer data;

11                   b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first control  
12                   computer data to the first control computer;  
13                   c. in the moderating computer or the first control computer, transmitting at least a  
14                   portion of the first control computer data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy  
15                   Providers; and  
16                   d. in the first control computer, designating at least two Providers of the plurality of  
17                   energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated  
18                   Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end  
19                   user at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time  
20                   interval.

1       81. A method of Claim 80 in which the designated Providers, when their respective  
2                   commitments are summed, are committed to supply 100% of the energy needed by the at  
3                   least one end user.

1       82. A method of Claim 80 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements  
2                   specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating  
3                   computer to consider the bid valid.

1       83. A method of Claim 82 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids  
2                   indicate the quantity of energy each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the at  
3                   least one end user.

1       84. An energy bidding moderator for enabling designation of at least one Provider of a  
2                   plurality of energy Providers for the provision of energy to at least one end user, based on  
3                   an economic choice in accordance with auction rules, comprising:  
4                   a. a computer with a processor and a memory;

5                   b. means for receiving, from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, bids to  
6                   provide energy to at least one end user;  
7                   c. means for processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules to produce  
8                   processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in the memory as  
9                   first end-user set data;  
10                  d. means for transmitting at least a portion of the first end-user set data to at least a  
11                  portion of the plurality of energy Providers; and  
12                  e. means for designating at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to  
13                  provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated Provider to supply at  
14                  least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-  
15                  user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time interval.

1       85. A moderator of Claim 84 further including means for receiving decision rules from an  
2                   administrator associated with the moderator or from the at least one end user, and  
3                   applying the decision rules to the first end-user set data to designate at least a first  
4                   designated Provider for the provision of energy to the at least one end user.

1       86. A moderator of Claim 84 including means of notifying each designated Provider of its  
2                   designation to provide energy to the at least one end user and notifying a first DISCO  
3                   serving the at least one end user of the Provider's designation.

1       87. A moderator of Claim 84 including means for designating at least one Provider  
2                   committed to supply 100% of the energy needed by the at least one end user.

1       88. A moderator of Claim 84 including means for including bid formulation requirements in  
2                   the auction rules, the bid formulation requirements specifying the required elements that  
3                   must be reflected in the bid for the moderator to consider the bid valid.

1 89. A moderator of Claim 88 including means for transmitting at least a portion of the  
2 auction rules to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1 90. A moderator of Claim 88 including means for including bid formulation requirements  
2 specifying that all bids indicate the quantity of energy each Provider will provide, at a  
3 specific price, to the at least one end user.

1 91. A moderator of Claim 84 including means for at least one adjunct computer to perform at  
2 least a portion of the processing and communications functions of the moderating  
3 computer.

1 92. A method for conducting an automated bidding process among a plurality of energy  
2 Providers for the benefit of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with  
3 auction rules, comprising:  
4 a. collecting, from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, bids to provide  
5 energy to at least one end user;  
6 b. processing the bids that apply to the at least one end user in accordance with the  
7 auction rules;  
8 c. distributing at least a portion of processed bid information to at least a portion of the  
9 plurality of energy Providers;  
10 d. designating, on the basis of the processed bid information, at least one Provider of the  
11 plurality of energy Providers to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each  
12 designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least  
13 one end user at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific  
14 future time interval; and

15 e. making available periodic usage reports associated with the at least one end user to at  
16 least a first designated Provider, thereby enabling the at least a first designated  
17 Provider to adjust its energy supply during at least a portion of the specific future  
18 time interval in which the at least a first designated Provider supplies at least a  
19 portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user  
20 facility.

93. A method of Claim 92 in which at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers are designated, on the basis of the processed bid information, to provide energy to the at least one end user, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the energy to be used by the at least one end user at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time interval.

1 94. A method of Claim 92 in which the designated Providers, when their respective  
2 commitments are summed, are committed to supply 100% of the energy needed by the at  
3 least one end user.

1 95. A method of Claim 92 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements  
2 specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the bid to be  
3 considered valid.

1 96. A method of Claim 95 in which at least a portion of the auction rules are distributed to at  
2 least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1 . 97. A method of Claim 95 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids  
2 indicate the quantity of energy each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the at  
3 least one end user.

1 98. A method of Claim 92 in which historical energy usage data associated with the at least  
2 one end user is distributed to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1 99. A method of Claim 92 in which each of Steps a. - e. is accomplished by means of  
2 computer processing.

1 100. A method of Claim 92 in which at least a portion of the processed bid information is  
2 distributed to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers subsequent to the  
3 designating of at least a first designated Provider to provide energy to the at least one end  
4 user.

1 101. A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the  
2 benefit of a set of end users served by a first DISCO, in which a moderating computer  
3 collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and  
4 designates at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric  
5 power to the set of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction  
6 rules, wherein the method comprises:  
7 a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide at least one standard unit or  
8 block of electric power to the set of end users, processing the bids in accordance with  
9 the auction rules to produce processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed  
10 bid data in a data base of the moderating computer as first DISCO data;  
11 b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first DISCO data to  
12 at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers; and  
13 c. in the moderating computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of  
14 energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each  
15 designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the

16                   set of end users at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific  
17                   future time interval.

1       102. A method of Claim 101 in which the moderating computer designates at least two  
2                   Providers of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end  
3                   users, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to  
4                   be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility during the specific future  
5                   time interval.

1       103. A method of Claim 101 in which the designated Providers, when their respective  
2                   commitments are summed, are committed to provide the electric power required to  
3                   supply 100% of the energy needs of the set of end users.

1       104. A method of Claim 101 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements  
2                   specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating  
3                   computer to consider the bid valid.

1       105. A method of Claim 104 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a portion of  
2                   the auction rules to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1       106. A method of Claim 104 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids  
2                   indicate the quantity of standard units or blocks of electric power each Provider will  
3                   provide, at a specific price, to the set of end users.

1       107. A method of Claim 101 comprising, in the moderating computer, receiving decision rules  
2                   from an administrator associated with the moderating computer or from the set of end  
3                   users, processing at least a portion of the first DISCO data and the decision rules, and  
4                   designating at least a first designated Provider for the provision of electric power to the  
5                   set of end users.

1 108. A method of Claim 101 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a portion of  
2 the first DISCO data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers subsequent  
3 to designating at least a first designated Provider to provide electric power to the set of  
4 end users.

1 109. A method of Claim 101 in which at least a first designated Provider is designated by the  
2 moderating computer as a default Provider or a contract Provider.

1 110. A method of Claim 101 in which at least one adjunct computer performs at least a portion  
2 of the processing and communications functions of the moderating computer.

1 111. A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the  
2 benefit of a set of end users served by a first DISCO, in which a moderating computer  
3 collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and  
4 designates at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric  
5 power to the set of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction  
6 rules, wherein the method comprises:  
7 a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide at least one standard unit or  
8 block of electric power to the set of end users, processing the bids in accordance with  
9 the auction rules to produce processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed  
10 bid data in a data base of the moderating computer as first DISCO data;  
11 b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first DISCO data  
12 to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers;  
13 c. in the moderating computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of  
14 energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each  
15 designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the

set of end users at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time interval; and

- d. in the moderating computer, or in the first DISCO, or in an independent meter reading service entity, transmitting periodic usage reports associated with the set of end users to at least a first designated Provider.

112. A method of Claim 111 in which the moderating computer designates at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time interval.

1 113. A method of Claim 111 in which the designated Providers, when their respective  
2 commitments are summed, are committed to provide the electric power required to  
3 supply 100% of the energy needs of the set of end users.

1 114. A method of Claim 111 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements  
2 specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating  
3 computer to consider the bid valid.

1 115. A method of Claim 114 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a portion of  
2 the auction rules to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1 116. A method of Claim 114 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids  
2 indicate the quantity of standard units or blocks of electric power each Provider will  
3 provide, at a specific price, to the set of end users.

1 117. A method of Claim 111 in which the moderating computer transmits historical energy  
2 usage data associated with the set of end users to at least a portion of the plurality of  
3 energy Providers.

1 118. A method of Claim 111 comprising, in the moderating computer, receiving decision rules  
2 from an administrator associated with the moderating computer or from the set of end  
3 users, processing at least a portion of the first DISCO data and the decision rules, and  
4 designating at least a first designated Provider for the provision of electric power to the  
5 set of end users.

1 119. A method of Claim 111 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a portion of  
2 the first DISCO data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers subsequent  
3 to designating at least a first designated Provider to provide electric power to the set of  
4 end users.

1 120. A method of Claim 111 in which at least one adjunct computer performs at least a portion  
2 of the processing and communications functions of the moderating computer.

1 121. A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the  
2 benefit of a set of end users served by a first DISCO, in which a moderating computer  
3 collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and  
4 communicates with a first control computer, thereby enabling the first control computer  
5 to designate at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric  
6 power to the set of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction  
7 rules, wherein the method comprises:  
8 a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide at least one standard unit or  
9 block of electric power to the set of end users, processing the bids in accordance with

the auction rules to produce processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in a data base of the moderating computer as first DISCO data;

b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first DISCO data to

the first control computer;

c. in the moderating computer or the first control computer, transmitting at least a

portion of the first DISCO data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy

## Providers;

d. in the first control computer, designating at least one Provider of the plurality of

energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each

designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the

set of end users at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific

future time interval; and

e. in the moderating computer, or in the first control computer, or in the first DISCO, or

in an independent meter reading service entity, transmitting periodic usage reports

associated with the set of end users to at least a first designated Provider.

1 122. A method of Claim 121 in which the moderating computer designates at least two

## Providers of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end

users, with each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to

be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility during the specific future

5 time interval.

1 123. A method of Claim 121 in which the designated Providers, when their respective

2 commitments are summed, are committed to provide the electric power required to

supply 100% of the energy needs of the set of end users.

1 124. A method of Claim 121 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements  
2 specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating  
3 computer to consider the bid valid.

1 125. A method of Claim 124 in which the moderating computer transmits at least a portion of  
2 the auction rules to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1 126. A method of Claim 124 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids  
2 indicate the quantity of standard units or blocks of electric power each Provider will  
3 provide, at a specific price, to the set of end users.

1 127. A method of Claim 121 comprising, in the first control computer, receiving decision rules  
2 from an administrator associated with the first control computer or from the set of end  
3 users, processing at least a portion of the first DISCO data and the decision rules, and  
4 designating at least a first designated Provider for the provision of electric power to the  
5 set of end users.

1 128. A method of Claim 121 in which the moderating computer or the first control computer  
2 transmits at least a portion of the first DISCO data to at least a portion of the plurality of  
3 energy Providers subsequent to the first control computer designating at least a first  
4 designated Provider to provide electric power to the set of end users.

1 129. A method of Claim 121 in which at least a first designated Provider is designated by the  
2 first control computer as a default Provider or a contract Provider.

1 130. A method of Claim 121 in which the first control computer is operated by the moderating  
2 computer, or by the set of end users, or by a reseller to the set of end users, or by the first  
3 DISCO.

1 131. A method of Claim 121 in which at least a portion of the processing and communications  
2 functions of the moderating computer or the first control computer are performed by one  
3 or more adjunct computers.

1 132. A method of Claim 121 in which the first control computer is a computer adjunct to the  
2 moderating computer.

1 133. A method for creating an automated bidding process among energy Providers for the  
2 benefit of a set of end users served by a first DISCO, in which a moderating computer  
3 collects bids from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, processes the bids and  
4 communicates with a first control computer, thereby enabling the first control computer  
5 to designate at least two Providers of the plurality of energy Providers to provide electric  
6 power to the set of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction  
7 rules, wherein the method comprises:

8 a. in the moderating computer, receiving bids to provide at least one standard unit or  
9 block of electric power to the set of end users, processing the bids in accordance with  
10 the auction rules to produce processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed  
11 bid data in a data base of the moderating computer as first DISCO data;

12 b. in the moderating computer, transmitting at least a portion of the first DISCO data to  
13 the first control computer;

14 c. in the moderating computer or the first control computer, transmitting at least a  
15 portion of the first DISCO data to at least a portion of the plurality of energy  
16 Providers; and

17 d. in the first control computer, designating at least two Providers of the plurality of  
18 energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each

19 designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the  
20 set of end users at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific  
21 future time interval.

- 1 134. A method of Claim 133 in which the designated Providers, when their respective  
2 commitments are summed, are committed to provide the electric power required to  
3 supply 100% of the energy needs of the set of end users.
- 1 135. A method of Claim 133 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements  
2 specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the moderating  
3 computer to consider the bid valid.
- 1 136. A method of Claim 135 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids  
2 indicate the quantity of standard units or blocks of electric power each Provider will  
3 provide, at a specific price, to the set of end users.
- 1 137. An energy bidding moderator for enabling designation of at least one Provider of a  
2 plurality of energy Providers for the provision of electric power to a set of end users  
3 served by a first DISCO, based on an economic choice in accordance with auction rules,  
4 comprising:
  - 5 a. a computer with a processor and a memory;
  - 6 b. means for receiving, from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, bids to  
7 provide at least one standard unit or block of electric power to the set of end users;
  - 8 c. means for processing the bids in accordance with the auction rules to produce  
9 processed bid data, and storing the bids and the processed bid data in the memory as  
10 first DISCO data;

11                   d. means for transmitting at least a portion of the first DISCO data to at least a portion  
12                   of the plurality of energy Providers; and  
13                   e. means for designating at least one Provider of the plurality of energy Providers to  
14                   provide electric power to the set of end users, with each designated Provider to supply  
15                   at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one  
16                   end-user facility during at least a portion of a specific future time interval.

1                   138. A moderator of Claim 137 including means for designating at least two Providers of the  
2                   plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with each  
3                   designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used by the set  
4                   of end users at at least one end-user facility during the specific future time interval.

1                   139. A moderator of Claim 137 including means for designating at least one Provider  
2                   committed to provide the electric power required to supply 100% of the energy needs of  
3                   the set of end users.

1                   140. A moderator of Claim 137 including means for including bid formulation requirements in  
2                   the auction rules, the bid formulation requirements specifying the required elements that  
3                   must be reflected in the bid for the moderating computer to consider the bid valid.

1                   141. A moderator of Claim 140 including means for transmitting at least a portion of the  
2                   auction rules to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1                   142. A moderator of Claim 140 including means for including bid formulation requirements  
2                   specifying that all bids indicate the quantity of standard units or blocks of electric power  
3                   each Provider will provide, at a specific price, to the set of end users.

1                   143. A moderator of Claim 137 further including means for receiving decision rules from an  
2                   administrator associated with the moderator or from the set of end users, processing at

3           least a portion of the first DISCO data and the decision rules, and designating at least a  
4           first designated Provider for the provision of electric power to the set of end users.

1   144. A moderator of Claim 137 including means for notifying each designated Provider of its  
2           designation to provide electric power to the set of end users and notifying the first  
3           DISCO of the Provider's designation.

1   145. A moderator of Claim 137 including means for one or more adjunct computers to  
2           perform at least a portion of the processing and communications functions of the  
3           moderator.

1   146. A method for conducting an automated bidding process among a plurality of energy  
2           Providers for the benefit of end users, based on an economic choice in accordance with  
3           auction rules, comprising:

4           a. collecting, from each Provider of a plurality of energy Providers, bids to provide at  
5           least one standard unit or block of electric power to a set of end users served by a first  
6           DISCO;

7           b. processing the bids that apply to the set of end users in accordance with the auction  
8           rules;

9           c. distributing at least a portion of processed bid information to at least a portion of the  
10           plurality of energy Providers;

11           d. designating, on the basis of the processed bid information, at least one Provider of the  
12           plurality of energy Providers to provide electric power to the set of end users, with  
13           each designated Provider to supply at least a portion of the electric power to be used  
14           by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility during at least a portion of a  
15           specific future time interval; and

16 e. making available periodic usage reports associated with the set of end users to at least  
17 a first designated Provider, thereby enabling the at least a first designated Provider to  
18 adjust its electric power supply during at least a portion of the specific future time  
19 interval in which the at least a first designated Provider supplies at least a portion of  
20 the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user facility.

1 147. A method of Claim 146 in which at least two Providers of the plurality of energy  
2 Providers are designated, on the basis of the processed bid information, to provide  
3 electric power to the set of end users, with each designated Provider to supply at least a  
4 portion of the electric power to be used by the set of end users at at least one end-user  
5 facility during the specific future time interval.

1 148. A method of Claim 146 in which the designated Providers, when their respective  
2 commitments are summed, are committed to provide the electric power required to  
3 supply 100% of the energy needs of the set of end users.

1 149. A method of Claim 146 in which the auction rules include bid formulation requirements  
2 specifying the required elements that must be reflected in the bid for the bid to be  
3 considered valid.

1 150. A method of Claim 149 in which at least a portion of the auction rules are distributed to  
2 at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.

1 151. A method of Claim 149 in which the bid formulation requirements specify that all bids  
2 indicate the quantity of standard units or blocks of electric power each Provider will  
3 provide, at a specific price, to the set of end users.

1 152. A method of Claim 146 in which historical energy usage data associated with the set of  
2 end users is distributed to at least a portion of the plurality of energy Providers.